

**MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate release**

# **MALTHOUSE THEATRE**

Playbox Theatre Company  
trading as  
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MALTHOUSE THEATRE & VICTORIAN OPERA PRESENT  
BERTOLT BRECHT & KURT WEILL'S

## **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**

**MERLYN THEATRE**  
**MAY 28 – JUNE 19 2010**

TEXT **RAIMONDO CORTESE**  
LYRICS **JEREMY SAMS**  
DIRECTOR **MICHAEL KANTOR**  
CONDUCTOR **RICHARD GILL**  
SET DESIGNER **PETER CORRIGAN**  
COSTUME DESIGNER **ANNA CORDINGLEY**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER **PAUL JACKSON**  
BESEN FAMILY ARTIST PROGRAM  
(DIRECTION) **CAMERON S. MENZIES**  
BESEN FAMILY ARTIST PROGRAM  
(WARDROBE) **CHLOE GREAVES**



WITH **CASEY BENNETTO / PAUL CAPSIS / JUDI CONNELLI / ANNA O'BYRNE / EDDIE PERFECT / DIMITY SHEPHERD / GRANT SMITH & ENSEMBLE INCLUDING MELISSA LANGTON / AMY LEHPALMER / JOLYON JAMES**

Following the success of last year's *Through the Looking Glass*, Malthouse Theatre and Victorian Opera collaborate again to present an all too timely new production of Bertolt Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera*. To be directed by **Michael Kantor**, with musical direction by **Richard Gill** and featuring text adaptation by Ranter's Theatre **Raimondo Cortese**, this gritty mixture of metropolis life, musical comedy, bawdy farce and political commentary will be brought to life by a cast of thieves, beggars, pimps and whores including **Eddie Perfect, Paul Capsis, Judi Conelli, Grant Smith** and **Dimity Shepherd**.

In this world famous 'opera for beggars' Mack the Knife is a professional criminal, liar, womanizer and dangerous thief. He's not the sort of man that you'd want for a son in law. And J.S. Peachum, the leader of the beggars, is not pleased when Mack marries his daughter Polly. Trouble and mischief ensue as it looks like Mack's womanizing days have got the better of him – can he rely on his friends in high places, or is his fate in the hands of his motley gang of bumbling gangsters....

Featuring songs made famous originally by **Lotte Lempfer** and the cast of the 1928 Berlin premiere, including *Mack the Knife* and *Pirate Jenny*, Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera* is one of the iconic musical theatre works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Brecht based his *tour de force* on **John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera (1728)***, a prescient work which dared to suggest that the world is run by thieves, cutthroats and harlots, whether in the halls of government or the depths of the gutter. Sounds familiar? Gay's scandalous satire went on to become one of the eighteenth-century's most popular plays in Britain, and Brecht's re-imagining has proved as popular as its precursor.

Michael Kantor is joined by Richard Gill in music direction and conducting, Peter Corrigan with set design and Malthouse Theatre resident designers Anna Cordingley and Paul Jackson design costumes and lighting. Eddie Perfect, in his first main stage appearance since *Shane Warne The Musical* will wield his insouciant charm as the indefatigable Mack the Knife; Dimity Shepherd, last seen at the Malthouse as Alice in *Through the Looking Glass* charms as his lover Lucy; Judi Connelli and Grant Smith create a formidable force as the Peachums and Paul Capsis is literally transformative as the street girl Jenny.

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Season info: MELBOURNE

Merlyn Theatre, The CUB Malthouse

28 May – 19 June 2010

Opening night: Wednesday 2 June at 7.30pm

Season: Tuesdays at 6.30pm, Wednesday – Saturdays at 7.30pm, Sundays at 5.00pm; matinees – Saturday 12 June at 2.00pm, Thursday 17 June at 1.00pm.

Booking info: [www.malthousetheatre.com.au](http://www.malthousetheatre.com.au) / 03 9685 5111

Ticket Prices: \$16.50 – \$49 + min booking fee \$1.50

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